

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of generating a configuration comprising a plurality of components each having an associated context, said associated context equal to one or more of a plurality of values, said method comprising:

- storing a current first context state in response to a requirement for the installation of a first component, wherein the first component is one of the plurality of components and the first context state represents state of a context to which the first component belongs and the context represents a limitation of choices for components;
- changing the current state of the context to a context state corresponding to the context associated with the first component if the current first context state and the context associated with the first component are not equal;
- installing the first component as part of the configuration;
- upon installing the first component as part of the configuration, changing a first state of the configuration to a second configuration state that includes the first component;
- and
- restoring the stored first context state upon completing installation of the first component without changing the second configuration state.

2. (Currently Amended) A computer system adapted to generate a configuration, the computer system comprising:

- a processor; and
- a memory coupled to the processor and configured to store a current first context state in response to a requirement for the installation of a first component, wherein the first component is one of a plurality of components each having an associated context, said associated context state equal to one or more of a plurality of values and the first context state represents state of a context to which the first component belongs and the context represents a limitation of choices for

10 components, wherein the memory further includes code executable by the
11 processor to:
12 change the current first context state to a context state corresponding to the context
13 associated with the first component if the current first context state and the
14 context associated with the first component are not equal;
15 install the first component as part of the configuration;
16 change a first state of the configuration to a second configuration state that includes the
17 first component upon installation of the first component as part of the
18 configuration; and
19 restore the stored first context state upon a completion of an installation of the first
20 component without changing the second configuration state.

1 3. (Canceled).

1 4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the configuration
2 comprises the configuration of a product that is a member of the group consisting of:
3 automobiles, computer hardware, computer software, professional service products, financial
4 service products, medical products, pharmaceutical products, and construction products.

1 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the context associated
2 with the first component represents a limited set of additional components that are compatible as
3 additions to a particular configuration with the first component.

1 6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the context associated
2 with the first component represents a class of components that are compatible as additions to a
3 particular configuration with the first component.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein each component is
2 associated with a context attribute that allows identification of the context of each component,
3 the method further comprising:
4 processing the context attribute associated with the installed first component to determine
5 the context associated with the installed first component.

1 8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein each associated context is
2 a member of the group consisting of: a product line comprising compatible components, a
3 current inventory, and a country of purchase.

1 9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 as a result of installing the first component as part of the configuration, installing one or
3 more additional components, wherein each additional installed component has an
4 associated context; and
5 storing nested context states associated with each context of each additional installed
6 component; and
7 restoring a stored state of the context upon completing installation of the component
8 further comprises restoring the stored state to an immediately preceding stored
9 nested context state upon completing installation of each additional component by
10 restoring the nested context states in reverse.

1 10. (Canceled)

1 11. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 2 wherein the
2 configuration comprises the configuration of a product that is a member of the group consisting
3 of: automobiles, computer hardware, computer software, professional service products, financial
4 service products, medical products, pharmaceutical products, and construction products.

1 12. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 2 wherein the context
2 associated with the first component represents a limited set of additional components that are
3 compatible as additions to a particular configuration with the first component.

1 13. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 2 wherein the context
2 associated with the first component represents a class of components that are compatible as
3 additions to a particular configuration with the first component.

1 14. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 13 wherein each
2 component is associated with a context attribute that allows identification of the context of each
3 component and the memory further includes code executable by the processor to process the
4 context attribute associated with the installed first component to determine the context associated
5 with the installed first component.

1 15. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 2 wherein each associated
2 context is a member of the group consisting of: a product line comprising compatible
3 components, a current inventory, and a country of purchase.

1 16. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 2 wherein:
2 the memory is also configured to store nested context states in response to a requirement
3 for the installation of additional components due to the previous installation of
4 other components and each additional installed component has an associated
5 context; and
6 the memory further includes code executable by the processor to restore the stored state
7 of the context upon completing installation of each additional component by
8 restoring the nested context states in reverse.

1 17. (Cancelled)

1 18. (Cancelled)

1 19. (Cancelled)

1 20. (Cancelled)

1 21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein if the first context state
2 and the context associated with the first component are equal, the method further comprises:
3 retaining the first context state as the current context state;

installing the first component as part of the configuration while retaining the first context state as the current context state; and
upon installing the first component as part of the configuration, changing a first state of the configuration to a second configuration state that includes the first component while retaining the first context state as the current context state.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
storing the current first context state in response to a requirement for the installation of a second component, wherein the second component is one of the plurality of components;
changing the current state of the context to a context state corresponding to the context associated with the second component if the current first context state and the context associated with the second component are not equal;
installing the second component as part of the configuration;
upon installing the second component as part of the configuration, changing the second configuration state to a third configuration state that includes the second component; and
restoring the stored first context state upon completing installation of the second component without changing the third configuration state.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein changing a state of the configuration to a second configuration state that includes the first component further comprises:
including one or more first additional components in the second configuration state if installing the first component as part of the configuration requires including the one or more first additional components; and
removing one or more second additional components in the second configuration state if installing the first component of the configuration requires removing the one or more second additional components.

1 24. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 2 wherein if the first
2 context state and the context associated with the first component are equal, the memory further
3 includes code executable by the processor to:
4 retain the first context state as the current context state;
5 install the first component as part of the configuration while retaining the first context
6 state as the current context state; and
7 upon installation of the first component as part of the configuration, change a state of the
8 configuration to a second configuration state that includes the first component
9 while retaining the first context state as the current context state.

1 25. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 2 wherein the memory
2 further includes code executable by the processor to:
3 store the current first context state in response to a requirement for the installation of a
4 second component, wherein the second component is one of the plurality of
5 components;
6 change the current state of the context to a context state corresponding to the context
7 associated with the second component if the current first context state and the
8 context associated with the second component are not equal;
9 install the second component as part of the configuration;
10 upon installation of the second component as part of the configuration, change the second
11 state to a third configuration state that includes the second component; and
12 restore the stored first context state upon completing installation of the second component
13 without changing the third configuration state.

1 26. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 2 wherein:
2 the second configuration state also includes one or more first additional components in
3 the first configuration state if installation of the first component as part of the
4 configuration requires including the one or more first additional components; and
5 the second configuration state excludes one or more second additional components in the
6 first configuration state if installation of the first component of the configuration
7 requires removing the one or more second additional components.

1 27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for generating a configuration comprising a
2 plurality of components each having an associated context, said associated context equal to one
3 or more of a plurality of values, said method comprising:

4 means for storing a current first context state in response to a requirement for the
5 installation of a first component, wherein the first component is one of the
6 plurality of components and the first context state represents state of a context to
7 which the first component belongs and the context represents a limitation of
8 choices for components;

9 means for changing the current state of the context to a context state corresponding to the
10 context associated with the first component if the current first context state and
11 the context associated with the first component are not equal;

12 means for installing the first component as part of the configuration;

13 means for changing a first state of the configuration to a second configuration state that
14 includes the first component upon installing the first component as part of the
15 configuration; and

16 means for restoring the stored first context state upon completing installation of the first
17 component without changing the second configuration state.

1 28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of
2 components of the configuration are selected from a group of components, the method further
3 comprising:

4 upon installing the first component as part of the configuration, determining whether to
5 install one or more additional components based upon installation of the first
6 component; and

7 if one or more additional components are to be installed based upon installation of the
8 first component, selecting the one or more additional components to be installed,
9 wherein the context associated with the first component limits available choices
10 from which the one or more additional components can be selected to a subset of
11 the group of components.

1 29. (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 2 wherein the plurality of
2 components of the configuration are selected from a group of components and the memory
3 further includes code executable by the processor to:

4 determine, upon installation of the first component as part of the configuration, whether
5 to install one or more additional components based upon installation of the first
6 component; and

7 select the one or more additional components to be installed if one or more additional
8 components are to be installed based upon installation of the first component,
9 wherein the context associated with the first component limits available choices
10 from which the one or more additional components can be selected to a subset of
11 the plurality of components.

1 30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the plurality of
2 components of the configuration are selected from a group of components, the apparatus further
3 comprising:

4 means for determining, upon installation of the first component as part of the
5 configuration, whether to install one or more additional components based upon
6 installation of the first component; and

7 means for selecting the one or more additional components to be installed if one or more
8 additional components are to be installed based upon installation of the first
9 component, wherein the context associated with the first component limits
10 available choices from which the one or more additional components can be
11 selected to a subset of the plurality of components.

1 31. (Currently Amended) A computer program product having code executable by a
2 processor stored thereon to generate a configuration comprising a plurality of components each
3 having an associated context, said associated context equal to one or more of a plurality of
4 values, wherein the code is further configured to:

5 store a current first context state in response to a requirement for the installation of a first
6 component, wherein the first component is one of the plurality of components and

7 the first context state represents state of a context to which the first component
8 belongs and the context represents a limitation of choices for components;
9 change the current state of the context to a context state corresponding to the context
10 associated with the first component if the current first context state and the
11 context associated with the first component are not equal;
12 install the first component as part of the configuration;
13 upon installing the first component as part of the configuration, change a first state of the
14 configuration to a second configuration state that includes the first component;
15 and
16 restore the stored first context state upon completing installation of the first component
17 without changing the second configuration state.

1 32. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 31 wherein the
2 code is further configured to:
3 determine, upon installation of the first component as part of the configuration, whether
4 to install one or more additional components based upon installation of the first
5 component; and
6 select the one or more additional components to be installed if one or more additional
7 components are to be installed based upon installation of the first component,
8 wherein the context associated with the first component limits available choices
9 from which the one or more additional components can be selected to a subset of
10 the plurality of components.